

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The LISTING OF CLAIMS will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Radiation detector comprising a counter ~~(1)~~, and an absorbent ~~absorbing~~ enclosure ~~(2)~~ surrounding the counter except for a ~~the~~ collimation slit ~~(3)~~ leading to the counter, characterized in that it comprises:

a motor ~~(7)~~ servocontrolled to a set counter signal current; ~~(Tee)~~, and

a transmission ~~(8, 9)~~ connecting the motor to a mobile portion ~~(12)~~ of the absorbent enclosure, partially delimiting the collimation slit, to move the ~~said~~ mobile portion to increase or reduce the width of the collimation slit depending on the activity of the motor, the motor moving on one side of the detector opposite the collimation slit and the transmission extending through the absorbent enclosure; and

an axis parallel to a length direction of the collimation slit to which the mobile portion is articulated.

2. (Currently Amended) Radiation detector according to claim 1, characterized in that it comprises ~~an axis (13) parallel to a length direction of the slit to which the mobile portion is articulated,~~ the transmission comprises a sliding rod ~~(9)~~ finishing at a handle

(14) sliding in a drilling (11) that is oblique with respect to the rod forming the mobile portion.

3. (Currently Amended) Radiation detector according to claim 1 ~~claim 2~~, characterized in that the mobile portion delimits the collimation slit by a convex face (15) moving away from the axis (13).

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3 are now pending.

The Examiner is thanked for his kind finding of allowable subject matter in claims 2-3 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Oath/Declaration

Submitted herewith is a supplemental Application Data Sheet (ADS) to correct the declaration ("Declaration, Power of Attorney and Petition) under 37 C.F.R. §1.63 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.76 (c)(1). This correction is to provide typewritten information of the residence and post office address (mailing address) of each of the inventors. One of the inventor addresses has been updated. In accordance with Patent Application Data Sheet Format, Guide for Submitting Bibliographic Data for Patent Applications (ADS Version 5, Rev. 4/15/2003), a complete ADS is being submitted.

Regarding Amendments

Claims 1-3 have been amended to further particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention. The amendment also contains minor changes of a clerical nature and corrections to minor informalities noted in the Office Action. No "new matter" has been added by the amendment.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-3 stand objected to because of the non-conforming terms “absorbent” and “absorbing” in claim 1. The claim 1 has been amended to correct the minor error in accordance with the Examiner suggestion. With this amendment, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Xu et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,518,579 B1) in view of Goto (JP 62-80579-A) and Boxen (U.S. Pat. No. 6,353,227 B1).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to M.P.E.P. §2143,

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in the applicant's disclosure.

Furthermore, the mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination. *In re Mills*, 916 F.2d 680, 16 USPQ2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

Claim 1 defines a radiation detector comprising a counter and an absorbent enclosure surrounding the counter except for a collimation slit leading to the counter. The claimed radiation detector is characterized in that it comprises (a) a motor servocontrolled to a set counter signal current, (b) a transmission connecting the motor to a mobile portion of the absorbent enclosure, partially delimiting the collimation slit, to move the mobile portion to increase or reduce the width of the collimation slit depending on the activity of the motor, the motor moving on one side of the detector opposite the collimation slit and the transmission extending through the absorbent enclosure, and (c) an axis parallel to a length direction of the collimation slit to which the mobile portion is articulated, recited in claim 1 as emended.

As the Examiner correctly mentioned in the Office Action, none of the cited references, Xu, Goto, and Boxen teach or suggest an axis parallel to the length direction of the collimation slit to which the mobile portion is articulated, as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims based on Xu, Goto, and Boxen be withdrawn. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Request for Allowance

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

Allowable Subject Matter

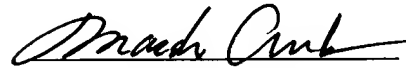
The Examiner is thanked for the kind finding of allowable subject matter in claims 2 and 3 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance as set forth in the Office Action. However, Applicants point out that the reasons for allowability of the above referenced claims are not limited to the reasons for allowance as set forth in the Office Action, and that additional reasons for allowability may exist, each of which may be independently sufficient to establish the patentability of one or more pending claims.

Applicants respectfully reserve the right to introduce, articulate, or otherwise comment on any such additional reasons for allowance as may be appropriate in any future proceedings concerning the claimed invention.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
THELEN REID & PRIEST, LLP

Dated: October 23, 2003



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Limited Recognition under 37 CFR §10.9(b)

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